



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner

FROM: Brenda Wid

DATE: December 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Report on Rules

The following Rule has been

Approved by Commissioner:

Rule 24, Certificate Endorsements. The Hearing Draft of this rule was approved by the Commissioner on November 30, 2015. A rule-making hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Testimony will be received in the State Board Meeting Room in Lincoln, NE.

The PURPOSE of the hearing is to incorporate changes to certificate endorsement requirements. Substantive changes related to endorsements contained in the Rule include: Art (grade level change and other updates), Health Sciences Education (changed to a supplemental endorsement and updates the existing Health Occupations endorsement), Middle Level Education (changed to a subject endorsement and changes to areas of specialization requirements), Music (grade level change and other updates), and Vocal Music (grade level change and other updates). General Art and Instrumental Music subject endorsements are eliminated. A PK-12 grade level option is added to the Physical Education endorsement. The Special Education endorsement becomes the Special Education Generalist.

Other changes include non-substantive revisions to enhance consistency and reflect current practice throughout the Rule. These include changes throughout the Rule to bring consistency to supplemental endorsement language and incorporate an update to the name of the Praxis assessments currently being used.

Approved by the Secretary of State:

Rule 11, *Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants* (92 NAC 11), has been approved by the Secretary of State's Office and will have an effective date of November 23, 2015.

Awaiting final adoption by the Board at the December State Board Meeting:

Rule 82, Regulations Governing the Diploma of High School Equivalency Assistance Act.

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, November 18. The Hearing Officer's Summary will be a part of the support material for the agenda item.

The PURPOSE of the proposed revisions to Rule 82 is to incorporate language which provides for distribution of funds to entities other than institutions to defray the costs associated with participation in such programs.

Rule 51, Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs.

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, November 18. The Hearing Officer's Summary will be a part of the support material for the agenda item.

The PURPOSE of the proposed revisions to Rule 51 is to increase the competency levels and professional development requirements for individuals providing sign language interpretation in schools. Additionally, the rule is being revised to incorporate the changes made in 92 NAC 24 regarding special education endorsements.